

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTIO, BENC, EPAP, XMB, OPIC, LI

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: PULP MILL IN LIBERIA

REF: STATE 173608

1. IN RESPONSE TEFTTEL, FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MR.
HAMMARBERG OF TETRAPULP DURING SUBJECT-RELATED VISIT TO LIBERIA.

2. TETRAPULP INC. IS LIBERIAN COMPANY ORGANIZED TO SUPPORT
PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHEMICAL WOOD PULP MANUFACTURING
OPERATION TO BE LOCATED IN LIBERIA, TETRAPULP OWNED BY
HONORABLE A.B. TOLBERT, MEMBER OF LIBERIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND SON OF PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA; PROFESSOR ADOLPHUS JAMES OF
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA SCHOOL OF LAW; AND MR. SEPPO HAMMARBERG OF
SWITZERLAND WHO ALSO SERVES AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TETRAPULP.
TETRAPULP IS TO PARTICIPATE IN OWNERSHIP OF PULP PLANT WHICH IS
TO BE CALLED LIBERIAN PULP MILL COMPANY (LPMC). ACCORDING TO
HAMMARBERG, GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA (GOL) ALSO TO PARTICIPATE IN
OWNERSHIP OF LPMC TO EXTENT OF 25-40 PERCENT. EUROPEAN PAPER
MILLS MAY POSSIBLE PARTICIPATE IN OWNERSHIP. NOT CLEAR TO EMBASSY
WHAT ROLE GERMAN LEASING FIRM DEUTSCHE ANLAGEN LEASING GMBH TO
PLAY IN PROJECT; HOWEVER, HAMMARBERG MENTIONED FIRM WILL PROVIDE
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APPROXIMATELY 150 MILLION DOLLARS CAPITAL FOR PROJECT,
ADDITIONAL FUNANCING APPARENTLY TO COME FROM SWISS COMPANY WHICH
IS OWNED BY FOUR MAJOR COMMERCIAL BANKS IN SWITZERLAND.

3. FOREST CONCESSION AREA IN EXCESS OF 500,000 ACRES HAS BEEN
APPROVED BY GOL TO SUPPORT LPMC AND ADDITIONAL CONCESSION AREA
CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED BY TETRAPULP AND GOL.

4. INDUSTRIAL AREA OF LPMC TO BE LOCATED NEAR CONFLUENCE OF CESTOS AND DO RIVERS ABOUT EIGHT KILOMETERS FROM COASTAL VILLAGE OF RIVER CESS. IN ADDITION TO INDUSTRIAL PLANT, PROJECT WILL REQUIRE CONSTRUCTION OF SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE TO INCLUDE HARBOR NEAR RIVER CESS, WATER, TREATMENT PLANT, 25 MW ELECTRIC POWERPLANT, AIRFIELD, SMALL HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL, LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS, OFFICES, ETC. PROJECT ESTIMATED TO COST 300 MILLION DOLLARS (150 MILLION DOLLARS EQUIPMENT AND 150 MILLION DOLLARS INFRASTRUCTURE). OUTPUT OF MILL PROJECTED TO BE 150,000 TONS OF SULFATE-BLEACHED PULP PER YEAR.

5. CANADIAN FIRM, STADLER HURDER LTD. OF MONTREAL, HANDLING DESIGN OF PROCESS ENGINEERING FOR PROJECT (CONTACT: MR. A.M. HURDER, TELEX 05-561006). HAMMARBERG INDICATED ENGINEERING MEETING TO BE HELD FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN PROJECT.

6. MR. HAMMARBERG TO TRAVEL TO U.S. SHORTLY. SHOULD ARRIVE IN NEW YORK ABOUT JULY 20TH AND WILL BE STAYING IN HOTEL BARBIZON-PLAZA, 106 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH, TELEPHONE (212) 247-0000. HE WILL ALSO CONTACT DORR OLIVER ON JULY 20TH OR 21ST. EXPECT HAMMARBERG WILL ALSO CONTACT EXIMBANK AND OPIC DURING SAME PERIOD TO DISCUSS PROJECT. PLEASE PASS INFORMATION TO DORR OLIVER ASAP.

7. COPY OF PRELIMINARY PROCESS PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR LPMC, MAPS, UNCLASSIFIED

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ETC. PREPARED BY KAARLO AMPERLA OY, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, HELSINKI, BEING POUCHED TO LIBERIA DESK OFFICER IN STATE AND TO COUNTRY MARKETING MANAGER AND MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS WITHIN COMMERCE.

8. U.S. FIRMS WISHING TO CONTACT MR. SEPPO HAMMARBERG SHOULD NORMALLY DIRECT CORRESPONDENCE TO P.O. BOX 122, CH-9430 ST. MARGRETHEN, SWITZERLAND.
CARTER

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